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Forests and floods.—According to MOORE,⁴⁵ forests exert no controlling influence upon rainfall, and very little upon the flow of the water after it reaches the earth's surface. While regretting the paucity of the data, he decides that the run-off of our rivers is not materially affected by any other factor than precipitation, that high waters are not higher and low waters are not lower than formerly, nor do floods occur more frequently and continue longer than formerly. In support of his contention that forestation exerts little or no effect upon precipitation, he shows that the presence or absence of forest covering affects only a thin stratum of air over the surface of the areas in question, whereas the conditions that control precipitation are confined to a much greater altitude and one not affected by the local irregularities occurring in the lower stratum. Statistics given for the Ohio River basin, where deforestation has been great, show that the flow of water in that river has exhibited no material change for the thirty-seven years for which measurements are available.—GEO. D. FULLER.

Evaporation and plant societies.—Evaporation is regarded as a very important factor in determining the character of plant societies, and several ecologists, measuring it with the most accurate instruments now available, are collecting interesting data from various localities. SHAW⁴⁶ determined the amount of evaporation at various stations in the Selkirk Mountains, ranging from 800 to 2900^m in altitude, extending his observations over a period of 12 weeks. The maximum evaporation was at 1100^m, while above this altitude there was a gradual but somewhat irregular diminution.

DICKEY,⁴⁷ in a bog habitat, found evaporation in the open central area occupied by Sphagnum, Oxycoccus, and Eriophorum much greater than in the surrounding maple-alder zone, and that rainfall had a more marked effect upon the rate of evaporation in the latter situation. In the maple-alder zone the appearance of foliage in the spring and the fall of leaves in the autumn affected the rate materially.—GEO. D. FULLER.

Stem gall on Commelina.—The LEEUWEN-REIJNVAANS⁴⁸ give a discussion of the gross and anatomical character of a stem gall on *Commelina communis* L. It is caused by the larva of a lepidopterous insect, *Aegeria uniformis* Snellen. The larval chamber originates in the central axis of the stem, and the enlargement of the stem at this point is on one side, instead of radial as is the case with most galls which originate in the central axis of the stem. The enlargement is due mainly to the increase in the amount of the parenchyma tissue. The collenchyma is

⁴⁵ MOORE, WILLIS L., Influence of forests on climate and on floods. Report to Committee on Agriculture, U.S. House of Representatives. pp. 38. 1910.

⁴⁶ SHAW, C. H., Present problems in plant ecology. III. Vegetation and altitude. Amer. Nat. 43:420-431. 1909.

⁴⁷ DICKEY, MALCOLM G., Evaporation in a bog habitat. Ohio Nat. 10:17-23. 1909.

⁴⁸ LEEUWEN-REIJNVAAN, J. UND W., DRS. VON. Kleinere cecidologische Mitteilungen. Ber. Deutsch. Bot. Gesell. 27:572-581. figs. 6. 1910.